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EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

Better environmental inspections for stronger environmental resilience

A regional seminar with the Eastern Partnership countries

DRAFT OUTLINE OF THE AGENDA

5 December 2022, 9h30 – 17h40 CET

6 December 2022, 9h30 – 15h40 CET

Location: Bedford Hotel & Congress Centre, Brussels, Belgium

Registration link:

<https://meetoecd1.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEsduusqTgiHd3n5niPmJeUt4jluVfE5KhY>

Event web page:

<https://www.eu4environment.org/events/regional-seminar-on-better-environmental-inspections-for-stronger-environmental-resilience/>

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Action implemented by:



Better environmental inspections for stronger environmental resilience

5-6 December 2022

Background

Environmental inspections is one of the traditional tools used by countries to monitor environmental compliance, and they play a key role in enforcing environmental regulations. There are many characteristics that determine the effectiveness of environmental inspections, including the soundness of risk assessment, the clarity of procedures and guidelines, the number and skills of inspectors, the sufficiency of equipment, the quality of follow-up, as well as the transparency of inspection plans and results for the general public. Achieving environmental compliance is essential for strengthening the environmental resilience of our societies and economies, with the ultimate aim of benefitting both people and the planet.

Within the European Union, the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED), adopted in 2010, is the first piece of EU legislation that sets out binding legal requirements for environmental inspections. Covering some 52 000 large agro-industrial installations EU-wide, the Directive is the main EU instrument regulating pollutant emissions from industry. One of the main provisions of the IED is that the frequency of site visits for different types of installations should be based on an assessment of their environmental risk. The IED used as a reference the non-legally binding Recommendation for Minimum Criteria of Environmental Inspections (RMCEI), adopted in 2001. The European Union Network for Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) has provided support in refining the RMCEI and developing inspection guidance, such as through its “Doing the Right Things” project.

On 5 April 2022, the European Commission unveiled a proposal for revising the Directive. This revision aims to bring the IED in line with the EU's zero pollution ambition, as well as the policy goals under the European Green Deal. The main changes include expanding the scope (in terms of sectors covered and thresholds), strengthening permit requirements to authorise installations to operate, and measures to promote innovation.

Many EU's Eastern Partnership countries have been recently undertaking reforms in the field of environmental inspections. Most of them adopted risk assessment methodologies for planning inspections in the last few years (Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine in 2019, and Moldova in 2018). Georgia and Moldova have developed draft laws on industrial emissions aimed at establishing integrated permitting and control. In addition, many countries plan to digitise information management processes related to inspections.

Meeting objectives, expected outputs and outcomes

The main objectives of this regional seminar are to 1) present and discuss findings of a draft OECD assessment report of the environmental compliance assurance system of Georgia, prepared within the EU4Environment framework; 2) facilitate an information exchange on the latest developments in environmental inspections, available guidance and tools, and lessons learnt.

Participants

Participants in this seminar are practitioners from environmental inspectorates and policy makers from the Eastern Partnership, EU and OECD countries; officials and experts from EU institutions and civil society representatives; the OECD Secretariat and representatives of the IMPEL network.

About EU4Environment

The “European Union for Environment” (**EU4Environment**) aims to help the Eastern Partnership countries preserve their natural capital and increase people’s environmental well-being, by supporting environment-related action, demonstrating and unlocking opportunities for greener growth, and setting mechanisms to better manage environmental risks and impacts.

The Action is funded by the European Union and implemented by five Partner organisations: OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO and the World Bank based on a budget of some EUR 20 million. The Action implementation period is 2019-2024.

For further information contact: EU4Environment@oecd.org

Draft Agenda: Day 1 (5 December 2022)

Time	Item
Day 1 (5 December)	
9h00-9h30	Participant registration
9h30-10h00	<i>Item 1. Welcome and introductions</i>
10h00-11h55	<p><i>Item 2. Environmental compliance assurance system of Georgia</i></p> <p>During 2021-2022, the OECD prepared a report assessing Georgia's environmental compliance assurance system within the EU4Environment Action. This session focuses on presenting and discussing the draft findings of the report. During each substantive session, the OECD Secretariat will present the draft findings, and a representative of Georgia will comment on the findings and the latest developments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I Legislative and institutional set-up II Monitoring of environmental compliance III Enforcement and promotion of environmental compliance IV Conclusions and the way forward
11h55-13h00	Lunch
13h00-15h30	<p><i>Item 3. Guidance and tools for conducting environmental inspections</i></p> <p>This session will present some of the existing guidance and tools for conducting environmental inspections in the European Union and the OECD countries, including those developed by IMPEL.</p>
15h30-15h45	Coffee break
15h45-17h30	<i>Item 3. Guidance and tools for conducting environmental inspections (continued)</i>
17h30-17h40	<i>Item 4. Conclusions of the first day</i>
19h30	Dinner

Draft Agenda: Day 2 (6 December 2022)

Time	Item
Day 2 (6 December)	
9h30-9h40	<i>Item 1. Welcome and introductions</i>
9h40-10h50	<p><i>Item 2. Transposition and implementation of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED)</i></p> <p>This session will focus on sharing lessons learnt in establishing and carrying out inspections within the framework of the EU Industrial Emissions Directive (IED). It will include Eastern Partnership initiatives in integrated permitting and control and speakers from EU Member States.</p> <p><i>i) Experience of IED transposition in EaP countries</i></p>
10h50-11h00	Coffee break
11h00-12h10	<p><i>Item 2. IED transposition and implementation (continued)</i></p> <p><i>ii) Experience of IED implementation in EU Member States</i></p>
12h10-13h30	Lunch
13h30-15h35	<p><i>Item 3. Latest developments on environmental inspections</i></p> <p>This session will focus on additional latest developments in the Eastern Partnership countries in the area of environmental inspections, such as the adoption or refinement of risk methodologies, inspection guidelines, inspector training, and development of information systems, as well as the priorities going forward.</p> <p>There will be an in-depth discussion of the developments regarding environmental control in Ukraine.</p>
15h35-15h40	<i>Item 4. Conclusions</i>
